



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

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AFTER HOUSTON

Update 9 DEDICATED TO NWC VOLUNTEERS February, 1978

After Houston, what? The National Commission is working to assure that our Conference is followed up with action in Washington and the States to build on the great spirit and unity that emerged from our historic meeting. Here is a rundown on what it has been doing:

-- It is setting up the Continuing Committee of the Conference mandated at Houston and is looking into possible new sources of Federal funding to carry out the committee's function of monitoring the National Plan of Action as well as planning another conference to assess our progress.

-- It has urged chairs of the State delegations and coordinating committees to convene groups in their States consisting of elected delegates, delegates-at-large and members of the coordinating committees to map out activities for implementation of the NPA. Many States have already set to work. (See SPOT-CHECK, page 2).

-- In Washington, IWY and Congressional staff women are moving ahead on analysis of legislation that relates to the Plan. A Carter Domestic Policy Council spokeswoman met with IWY staff representatives and said the Council staff would analyze the Plan with reference to its impact on government agencies and legislation.

-- IWY Commissioners met at the White House January 31 with Midge Costanza and leading women in the Administration to develop additional plans for implementing the NPA. A large-scale meeting with women in the Carter Administration is also being planned.

-- The NPA has been published in a pocket-sized brochure which is being mailed to all delegates.

-- The NWC final report is now being prepared for formal presentation to the President and Congress before the end of March. It will be a profusely illustrated 220-page book, which will be mailed to all delegates. Additional copies will be available through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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SPOT-CHECK

Implementation of the National Plan of Action is picking up in some States. A quick check around the country shows:

ALABAMA -- Coordinating committee members and delegates-at-large are active in a Campaign Support Committee for ERA. (All State offices are up for election). More women are now publicly stating their views. For the first time, educators and teachers came out strongly in support of the ERA.

ARIZONA -- The coordinating committee turned over IWY files to the Arizona Women's Commission for storage and use. The Commission formed six task forces to work on items in the State and National Plans. Delegates plan to prepare a booklet for the Women's Commission.

CALIFORNIA -- A recognition awards luncheon for Hispanic delegates to the NWC was part of a day's program devoted to women's rights issues at the State LULAC convention in January in Sacramento. The California IWY report will be presented to the Governor and to State senators.

CONNECTICUT -- The delegation is working on a report to the Governor and will request a joint session of the legislature for a briefing. Delegates plan to hold one State conference every year, and perhaps four or five regional meetings this year. They will map out joint action with the State Commission on the Status of Women.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA -- Delegates held a public meeting to present the D.C. Plan of Action and the National Plan of Action to their Congressional representative. Discussions are underway to include the delegation as a new committee under the D.C. Commission for Women. A D.C. implementation conference will meet twice a year.

FLORIDA -- The Key West NAACP meeting included men who were there to hear a report on the NWC and to discuss women's issues, a "first."

GEORGIA -- The delegation plans to meet twice a year. IWY material will be donated to State archives.

HAWAII -- Three hundred attended a report and slide show on the NWC given by delegates-at-large and members of the coordinating committee.

IDAHO -- Post-NWC activity includes drafting legislation on State resolutions, especially bills to support homemakers.

INDIANA -- State IWY reports were distributed to the State Teachers Association. Two groups are organizing regional meetings in LaFayette and South Bend.

IOWA -- A Congressional hearing was held for Iowa Congressmen; the Plan of Action was presented and witnesses offered proposals for implementation and support. The hearing was open to "anti-change" groups but none appeared. The coordinating committee's executive committee is setting up a Speaker's Bureau.

KENTUCKY -- Most efforts are being funneled through the Kentucky Women's Agenda. A January press conference in the State library formally opened a file of materials on Kentucky women. Also introduced was the book, Kentucky Women Remembered, a direct outgrowth of the State IWY meeting. Four issues from the Plan of Action have been drafted into legislation currently before the State legislature, including a displaced homemakers bill.

LOUISIANA -- A third follow-up conference to the State meeting will be a spring hearing on Women and the Law for legislators, public officials and the public. Women and men will testify on their citizen experiences in the courts. Two other conferences have resulted from requests at the State meeting, one on Native American Women and one on Battered Women.

MAINE -- The coordinating committee and the delegation held a joint meeting in December for government officials and people who had attended the State meeting. The group reviewed slides and videotapes of the NWC.

MARYLAND -- Delegates met with the Governor's staff to review the National Plan of Action prior to Houston. After the NWC, delegates met with the Commission for Women and a coalition of groups interested in legislation.

MASSACHUSETTS -- The delegation chair met with the Governor to review important parts of the Plan of Action. A new combination committee -- the Massachusetts Implementation Committee -- is being formed. Delegates have set up a telephone network for quick lobbying on State legislative action. As part of a coalition, they have filed with the legislature a package of bills dealing with battered women.

MINNESOTA -- The delegation told the Governor that he can best demonstrate his support for women's rights by vetoing any bill that would prohibit use of public funds for abortion. They also urged him to prevent State employees from making State-funded trips to meetings in any of the 15 States that have not ratified ERA. Delegates organized a car caravan from the Twin Cities to Willmar to support the strike by eight female bank employes who contend that the bank discriminates on the basis of sex in its wage, hiring and promotion practices. The Governor has appointed women to the Public Service Commission, the State University Board and to the Ramsey County Municipal Court, which now includes the first woman as its youngest member.

NEVADA -- Post-NWC press attention has focused on pros and cons of the economic boycott of unratified ERA States.

NEW HAMPSHIRE -- The delegation plans ten public town meetings in one month to review resolutions and to tell about the NWC. Delegates are also holding "home meetings" to encourage local people to discuss Houston.

NEW JERSEY -- Delegates have met once and have formed a new group, New Jersey Women for IWY. They set up a Speakers Bureau and scheduled a public meeting for late January.

NEW YORK -- A regular monthly meeting is planned by the delegation, which is attending city and State hearings relevant to women's status. New York's City Council and Council on the Arts both held meetings stimulated by the NWC. The delegation will develop a calendar of events and a Speakers Bureau.

OKLAHOMA -- The coordinating committee gave copies of the State meeting report to the Governor and to the State library.

OREGON -- The Governor fulfilled his pledge to IWY to name a woman to a top position in his administration and appointed Betty Roberts as an appeals court judge.

PENNSYLVANIA -- A follow-up report in Pittsburgh drew 350 women. Similar meetings were held in Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

UTAH -- Women have formed support groups. Over 1,000 attended a speech by the coordinating committee chair at Brigham Young University.

VERMONT -- A town meeting is scheduled for March. The program will be a State-wide strategy session organized by delegates and coordinating committee members. Artifacts from the NWC will be on display in the State House while the legislature is in session.

WASHINGTON STATE -- Delegates met with Congressional members during winter recess.

WISCONSIN -- Delegates and coordinating committee members were invited to a State legislator's home for pot luck dinner and a strategy session following a delegation meeting January 20 with the Governor and legislative leaders.

WYOMING -- The Commission on the Status of Women will work to implement the National Plan. All delegates signed a petition urging a boycott of unratified ERA States. They also urged the Governor not to allow State money to be used for travel to unratified States.

VIRGIN ISLANDS -- The delegation and the coordinating committee have met frequently to draft legislation asking for the establishment of a women's center and a center for rape and wife abuse victims. They are also asking for a revision of divorce and property laws and of a rape law previously filed. St. Croix women are organizing a directory of women-owned services in the islands.

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RUNDOWN ON NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION RESOLUTIONS IN HOUSTON

These proposed resolutions were passed unchanged by the NWC: (Full text appears in the proposed National Plan of Action developed by the State meetings).

Arts and Humanities, Battered Women, Business, Child Abuse, Child Care, Credit (unanimous), Equal Rights Amendment, Elective and Appointive Office, Employment, Health, Homemakers, Insurance, International, Media, Women Offenders, Reproductive Freedom, Sexual Preference and Statistics.

Amended and substitute resolutions were as follows:

DISABLED WOMEN -- A substitute resolution (proposed by Eunice Fiorita of New York City) emphasizes access to education, training and employment for handicapped women; available services and funds to make independent living a reality; the right of disabled women to have and keep their children; health training and research programs; Medicaid and Medicare coverage of supplies needed by disabled women; and clarification of National Plan of Action wordings so that the term "bilingual" includes sign language and interpreters for the deaf, and the terms "barriers against women" and "access" include architectural and communications barriers.

EDUCATION -- Two amendments were added: one proposed by Amy Swerdlow, at-large delegate from New York, urged the integration of Women's Studies in the curriculum of State school systems; the other, proposed by Faith Mayhew of Oregon, urged an end to race stereotyping in State school systems, and called for non-racist counseling at every level of education.

MINORITY WOMEN -- A substitute resolution, developed by the Minority Women's Task Force of the Minority Women's Caucus was approved.

Maxine Waters, California delegate, read the opening section, which urged government action to remedy problems related to involuntary sterilization, mono-lingual education and services, high infant and maternal mortality rates, bias toward minority women's children, confinement to ghettoized housing, culturally biased educational, psychological and employment testing, failure to enforce affirmative action and special admission programs, combined sex and race bias in insurance, and failure to gather statistical data based on both sex and race.

Billie Masters, California delegate-at-large, read the American Indian-Alaska Native Women section asking a Federal guarantee that tribal rights, treaties and Congressional acts protect trust status.

Congress should extend the 1972 Indian Education Act, maintain base funding for education and improve Indian Health Service care, forbid removal of children from their families and assure a full share in federal programs.

Mariko Tse, California delegate, presented the Asian and Pacific Islander Women's section asking remedy for language and culture barriers, sweatshop work conditions with high health hazards, problems faced by wives of U.S. servicemen, and discrimination against immigrants seeking licensing, accreditation or federally-funded services.

The Hispanic Women's section, read by Sandy Serrano Sewell, California delegate-at-Large, urged an end to deportation of mothers of American-born children. In addition, the resolution requests legislation permitting parents to remain with their children, improving citizenship procedures, and providing federal minimum wage, collective bargaining rights, adequate housing and bilingual/bicultural social services for migrant farm working women. Hispanic American media should no longer be classified as "foreign press" (a category which prevents equal access to major national events), and the Federal Communications Commission should act to provide Hispanic people an equal opportunity to acquire radio or television stations as well as training and hiring opportunities in Spanish-language programming.

Commissioner Coretta Scott King read the resolution supporting Black women, urging enforcement of all affirmative action programs in education, and action to relieve the high unemployment of Black teenage women, the need for low and moderate income housing, and the problems of "children in need of parents." Enforcement of fair housing laws and attention to the Black Women's Plan of Action were also requested.

OLDER WOMEN -- A substitute resolution, proposed by Elizabeth Welch of North Carolina, was passed. Among the health and social services recommended are: integrated housing, public transportation, continuing education programs, preventive and remedial health care, geriatric training for health care personnel, displaced homemakers programs, older women in policy-making positions, and elimination of present inequities in Social Security legislation. The addition proposed by Faire Edwards of Vermont, that mandatory retirement be phased out, was also approved.

RAPE -- The resolution was amended by Virginia Apuzzo, New York delegate, to disallow under any circumstances the introduction of the victim's past sexual conduct as evidence.

RURAL WOMEN -- The resolution was amended in two parts to be attached to the end of the version printed in the Plan of Action. Lorna Bourg, Louisiana, introduced the first section: "The President should appoint a joint committee from the Departments of Labor, Agriculture and Justice to investigate the Louisiana sugar cane plantation system's violations of human rights, especially among women. This committee should also investigate the violations of human rights of other seasonal migrant farm workers throughout the United States and its territories."

Rowena Gamble, Kansas, introduced the second section, which reads: "All programs developed on behalf of rural women should be certain to include Blacks, migrants, Native Americans, Alaskans, Asians and Hispanics and all isolated minorities...Affirmative action programs (should) be extended to include these disenfranchised groups."

WELFARE -- The substitute amendment proposed by Christine Marston, Washington State; Beulah Sanders, New York; and Frankie Jeter, Pennsylvania; was adopted. As stated, the Federal and State governments should assume a role in focusing on welfare and poverty as major women's issues. Along with major improvements of the welfare system, other recommended reforms include improvements in employment, social security, and retirement systems; universal minimum wage; non-traditional job opportunities; quality child care; comprehensive health insurance; and legal services. Opposition was expressed to the "Carter Administration proposal for welfare reform" (HR 9030). The resolution further states that any welfare reform program must be developed in ongoing consultation with those affected.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT -- The Women's Department resolution was rejected. The NWC next passed a resolution establishing a Committee of the Conference to assess progress made on resolutions of the 1977 conference. Committee members would represent diverse ages and racial, ethnic, religious, economic, social and geographic backgrounds, and they would be nominated by delegates and selected by the National Commission. The President was asked to issue an Executive Order creating a commission to carry out the Plan of Action recommendations, and both the President and Congress were asked to provide sufficient funds.

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A TEXAS-SIZED SALUTE TO HOUSTON VOLUNTEERS

At its first post-NWC meeting December 14, the National IWY Commission adopted a resolution expressing its deep appreciation to Houston volunteers for their contributions to the Conference. The resolution reads:

The National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year wishes to express its enthusiastic thanks to the 3,000 volunteers whose work made the Conference possible.

Thanks are offered for volunteer hospitality and assistance to the Commissioners, delegates and observers; special events arranged in connection with the Conference; and hundreds of services performed, some of which kept volunteers working both day and night for many weeks. The general friendliness and willingness to act in emergencies combined to support a Conference being acclaimed at home and abroad as an unprecedented demonstration of democracy at its best. The Commission takes great pride in citing the Conference volunteers for their inestimable contribution to an historic event which will forever be known as "Houston."

We hope that you will be part of the ongoing effort to follow-up on the work accomplished November 18-21 in Houston.

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FINAL FIGURES

A total of 8,500 persons registered for the NWC and Conference officials estimated some 20,000 came to the Albert Thomas Convention Center daily to take part in the activities there.*

The tally of voting registrants broke down this way: 1,403 delegates, 186 alternates and 369 delegates-at-large.

*The exhibit area at the Convention Center was open to the public and many local people who came to see the exhibits and attend the cultural events did not register.

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HISTORY ON TAPE

Cassette tape recordings of the NWC's plenary sessions and the Distinguished Women in Government Lecture Series are available through Tape Services Unlimited of Hayward, Calif.

All 27 hours of the plenary sessions were edited into a collection of six one-hour tapes. Single cassette tapes are also available.

For more information, contact Tape Services Unlimited, 24886 Broadmore Avenue, Hayward, Calif. 94544. Phone number is (415) 785-8607.

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LABOR PAINS AT THE NWC

Judy McCarthy, White Mountain Tribe Apache, did have labor pains for three days during the NWC. Judy's daughter, Era, was born December 1, and weighed seven pounds, 13 ounces. Her doctor confirmed that she was in labor during the Conference and commented that, while he had known strong-willed women before, he never knew one who could control labor pains.

Members of the Arizona delegation consider themselves "grandmothers" or "aunts."

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IWY WORKSHOP GUIDELINES
INCLUDING FACT SHEETS AND RESOURCE LISTS
(PREPARED INITIALLY FOR USE AT STATE IWY MEETINGS)
(stock numbers)

Improving the Status of Women in the Arts and Humanities	052-003-00480-1
Child Care	052-003-00476-3
Credit	052-003-00485-2
Education	052-003-00477-1
Employment	052-003-00489-5
Equal Rights Amendment	052-003-00484-4
Female Offenders	052-003-00487-9
Health	052-003-00488-7
International Interdependence	052-003-00479-8
Legal Status of Homemakers	052-003-00492-5
Strategies for Change	052-003-00494-1
Media	052-003-00491-7
Older Women	052-003-00490-9
Sexual Preference	052-003-00493-3
Rape	052-003-00478-0
Teenage Pregnancy	052-003-00482-8
Wife Abuse	052-003-00486-1
Women in Elective and Appointive Office	052-003-00481-0
Insurance	052-003-00483-6

Order by stock number from: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Copies are \$1.25 each.

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IN CASE THIS IS THE FIRST UPDATE YOU'VE EVER SEEN...

Congress designated the National Iwy Commission as sponsor for the 56 State and Territorial Women's Meetings leading up to the National Women's Conference held November 18-21 in Houston. This newssheet is a follow-up report on that conference.

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INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Eighty-three women from 56 countries came to the NWC with the cooperation of several organizations, including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UNESCO itself, the African-American Labor Center, the Asia Foundation and the German Marshall fund countries.

Twenty-three women leaders from 22 countries visited Houston as part of a 30-day multi-regional program on Improving the Status of Women, sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. At an all-day conference sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, they talked about their shared struggles for equal rights. An additional 16 women from Latin America were also brought to Houston by the State Department.

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will meet March 18-20 to prepare for the 1980 Mid-Decade for Women Conference, tentatively set for two weeks in May 1980 in Teheran, Iran. For further information, write: Committee on the UN Decade for Women, 777 United Nations Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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NWC SLIDES

Two professionally-produced slide shows of the NWC, "Declaration of American Women" and "Women on the Move" will soon be available from the International Women's Tribune Centre, Room 815, 345 East 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Price is expected to be about \$40, including postage.

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NEW TIME, NEW CHANNEL

The IWY Commission has changed its mailing address. All correspondence should be sent to: IWY Commission, P.O. Box 1567, Washington, D.C. 20013.

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YOU CALLED, YOU WROTE...

We hope this edition of Update will serve as a response to various inquiries made and letters received during the last few weeks before the NWC. The crush of pre-conference activity resulted in some unreturned phone calls and un-answered mail.

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SENECA FALLS SOUTH

Thousands passed through Seneca Falls South, the public assembly area of the NWC, from Friday night throughout Sunday. The gathering spot in the Albert Thomas Convention Center featured four major components: the State, the ARTSPACE, the Women's Studies and Library Area and Be Yourself space.

Seneca Falls Stage featured 34 hours of programming over the two and one-half days, which ran the gamut from dramatic readings to soapbox oratory to concerts. ARTSPACE provided a two-day program of visual arts representing the work of women artists from all over the country. The Women's Studies and Library Area concentrated on 25 well-attended discussions dealing with women's history. The Be Yourself space allowed women to relax and enjoy themselves at any hour of the day or evening in cozy surroundings furnished with a huge, fuzzy carpet, beanbag chairs, flowers and television.

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EXHIBITS REPORT

The exhibit hall officially opened to the public at 1 p.m. Friday, November 18 when torch runners finished the last leg of the "Women on the Move" marathon by racing past the 231 exhibit booths enroute to Seneca Falls South.

Exhibits occupied two-thirds of the hall, with the last third reserved for a concession area filled with large round red-skirted tables. Here Conference-goers -- and Houston officials estimated that approximately 20,000 people visited the exhibits daily during the weekend -- could eat hot meals, homemade fudge, yogurt cones and just relax.

The exhibit hall was transformed from a cement floor, high-ceiling hall two football fields long into a colorful arena. Over 45 State coordinating committees were represented; approximately 22 U.S. Government agencies; 80 women's and non-profit organizations; over 40 women-owned and run small businesses; seven commercial booths; and seven labor unions. Women in the arts were represented, as were women in sports, in business, in recording, in publishing. Jewelry, buttons, T-shirts, bumper stickers, feminist literature, newspapers, records and art were all on sale.

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DAY CARE DATA

The NWC's child care program provided supervision for a total of 150 youngsters during the Houston weekend.

Children ranging from eight months to 11 years were cared for by a staff of 23, including three men. The older children took part in projects such as constructing an adventure playground and building and painting a boat.

Volunteer student nurses were present at St. Mary's Child Development Center during the first three days to provide health examinations.

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NWC ATTRACTS DIVERSE PRESS COVERAGE

Nearly 1,500 reporters registered for the NWC. Journalists came from the major wire services, all major daily newspapers, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times, as well as from smaller weeklies. Also represented were community radio stations and feminist publications.

Each major commercial network sent a team of reporters and crews. ABC's "Good Morning America," with David Hartman and Sandy Hill, originated live from the top of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Friday. Tom Brokaw of NBC's "Today" conducted interviews with delegates and observers throughout the weekend. CBS filed daily reports.

The Public Broadcasting System televised an hour-long wrap-up of the Conference that was seen nationally.

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MORE TO COME . . .

The March issue of MS Magazine will include a floor action report and resolutions adopted in Houston.

MS should be on the newsstands by late February in most communities.

Redbook Magazine's April issue will include an account of the Houston conference by Gail Sheehy (author of Passages). Redbook should be on the newsstands by mid-March.

And Glamor Magazine's Linda Bird Francke focuses in on the NWC in the February issue.

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CHECK YOUR LIBRARY

National media reports likely available now in most public libraries:

Time Magazine, 12/5/77

New York Times, 12/25/77

The Nation, 12/10/77

Good Housekeeping 11/77

Encore, 11/21/77

People, 12/5/77

Newsweek, 11/21/77

U.S. News, 12/5/77

US, 12/27/77

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HOUSTON SOUVENIRS

Posters, T-shirts and other NWC memorabilia are available through the IWY Washington office. Items are in heavy demand and no more orders will be accepted after February 28.

Official posters are available at the following prices: \$3 each for single orders (plus \$1 postage and handling); \$2.50 each for orders of 10 to 99; \$2 each for orders of over 100.

T-shirts bearing the theme "Women on the Move" are for sale at these prices: \$5 each for single orders (add \$1 for postage and handling); \$4 each for orders of 10 to 50; \$3.50 each for orders over 50.

(Bulk orders require higher postal charges. Please include a phone number so that you can be notified of the exact rate).

Also available to the public are copies of the official Conference program; the IWY tabloid titled "Woman 1977;" and the 1976 IWY report, "...To Form a More Perfect Union..." A donation of \$2 per IWY report and \$1 each for the program and tabloid would be appreciated. Add \$1 for postage and handling.

Make checks payable to: IWY Commission, P.O. Box 1567, Washington, D.C. 20013. If you have questions, contact Nancy Dolan at (202) 632-3518.

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WE SHALL GO FORTH....

The following will be familiar to those who attended the closing session of the NWC. They are the lyrics to "We Shall Go Forth," written by Margie Adam and performed by the artist during the last moments of the Conference.

We shall go forth from this place
Proud of the things we've done,
Sharing the things we've won
We shall not fail.

We shall go forth from this place
Willing to open wide
Sharing the light inside
We shall not fail.

Bringing together all we know
For others who are struggling alone,
Bringing together all we are,
Offering those who want to find us
A way to find us,
A way to see.

We shall go forth from this place
Taking with us the pride of knowing
We can decide. We shall not fail. We shall go forth.
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